

## Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 CU-04 NIC-01 IO-14 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 SY-10 SAM-01

DRC-01 /133 W

----- 120563

P R 161001Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 995

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

PRAGUE 1402

VIENNA 2242

WARSAW 1417

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BUDAPEST 0622

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, HU

SUBJECT: PETOFI DAY RELATIVELY PEACEFUL

1. IN CONTRAST TO PREVIOUS YEARS, MARCH 15 NATIONAL HOLIDAY WAS MARKED BY WELL STAGED COMMUNIST YOUTH RALLIES AND LACK OF POLITICAL DEMONSTRATIONS DIRECTED AGAINST REGIME. APPROXIMATELY 5,000 COMMUNIST "YOUTH" -- SOME OBVIOUSLY MIDDLE AGED--HELD CEREMONY AT NATIONAL MUSEUM IN HONOR OF 1848 INDEPENDENCE HERO SANDOR PETOFI.

2. UNENTHUSIASTIC CROWD LISTENED TO SPEECHES BY KISZ LEADERS AND THEN MARCHED TO PETOFI STATUE. ONLOOKERS THEN JOINED MARCHERS AND SWELLED CROWD TO ABOUT 15,000. KISZ OFFICIALS THEN DELIVERED SPEECHES, LAID WREATHS AT PETOFI STATUE AND CROWD SANG NATIONAL ANTHEM.

3. POLICE, WORKERS' MILITIA AND TRUCKLOADS OF TROOPS WERE DEPLOYED IN STRENGTH TO ENSURE FULL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONTROL OF CROWD. IN ADDITION, POLITICALLY SENSITIVE

MONUMENTS, SUCH AS PRO-SOVIET ONE IN FRONT OF EMBASSY, HAVE BEEN HEAVILY GUARDED TO PREVENT VANDALISM. POLICE SECURITY AND EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF CEREMONIES BY PARTY OFFICIALS COMBINED TO PREVENT SPONTANEOUS OUTBURSTS AGAINST REGIME. ALTHOUGH UNIVERSITY AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WERE RELEASED FOR DAY, THEY WERE OBLIGED TO SHOW UP FOR GOH ORGANIZED RALLIES AND STAY WITH ASSIGNED GROUP--THEREBY MAKING IT MOGW DIFFICULT FOR LIKE-MINDED DISSIDENTS TO UNITE.

4. MEMORY OF TOUGH GOH REACTIONS TO '72 AND '73 PROTESTS STILL FRESH, AND THIS COULD HAVE ALSO ACCOUNTED FOR LACK OF PROTEST. GOH APPEARS TO HAVE EFFECTIVELY CO-OPTED WHAT WAS NATIONALISTIC ANTI-SOVIET DAY AND CHANNELED IT INTO A BLAND CELEBRATION IN WHICH PARTY SUBSUMES ROLE AS REVOLUTIONARY SUCCESSOR TO TRUE SPIRIT OF MAGYAR NATIONALISM.  
PEDERSEN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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